

CLAIMS

- 5 1. A method for providing a low-maintenance landscape comprising:
- a. tilling dirt within a volume comprising a relatively shallow depth below grade,
for a relatively wide width, and for an arbitrary relatively longer than wide
length;
 - 10 b. excavating a drainage trench along at least one lengthwise side of said volume,
of a relatively shallow depth and relatively narrow width, adding the excavated
dirt to the tilled dirt;
 - c. optionally removing rocks and other non-dirt objects;
 - d. mixing with said dirt an amount less than that of said dirt of moisture retaining
material substantially functionally equivalent to compost;
 - 15 e. mixing with said dirt an amount less than that of said dirt of drainage
promoting material substantially functionally equivalent to ash, said amount
being adjusted in accordance with the sand content of said dirt;
 - f. forming the resultant mixture of dirt, compost equivalent and ash equivalent
into a berm sloping from approximately grade level at the edges to a higher
20 elevation toward the long axial center;
 - g. covering said berm, and filling and covering said trench(s), with a substantially
continuous and stable layer of mulch material substantially functionally
equivalent to wood chips; and,
 - h. planting a multiplicity of plants in said berm.
- 25 2. A method as in Claim 1, wherein said at least one side in step b. is both sides.
3. A method as in Claim 2 wherein, in addition, slow-release fertilizer is added to the
mixture of step e.
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4. A method as in Claim 2 wherein, in addition, pre-emergent herbicide is added to the mixture of step e.
- 5 5. A method as in Claim 2 wherein, in addition, an alkaline substance substantially functionally equivalent to lime is added to the mixture of step e. to adjust the pH of the dirt and/or amended soil mixture.
- 10 6. A method as in Claim 2 wherein, in addition, an acidic substance substantially functionally equivalent to sulphur is added to the mixture of step e. to adjust the pH of the dirt and/or amended soil mixture.
- 15 7. A method as in Claim 2 wherein, in addition, an alkaline substance substantially functionally equivalent to lime is added to at least one selected area of the mixture of step e. to adjust the pH for a particular plant.
8. A method as in Claim 2 wherein, in addition, an acidic substance substantially functionally equivalent to sulphur is added to at least one selected area of the mixture of step e. to adjust pH for a particular plant.
- 20 9. A method as in Claim 2 wherein, in addition, a hydration device is placed upon and/or within said berm.
- 25 10. A method as in Claim 9, wherein said hydration device comprises a soaker hose running along substantially the entire length of said berm placed at a shallow depth below the apex of said berm.
- 30 11. A method as in Claim 2 wherein:
- i. the maximum depth and width of said drainage trenches are substantially six inches each;
 - j. the width of said berm is substantially four feet;

- k. the depth of said berm below grade is substantially six inches;
- l. the height of said berm above grade slopes from substantially grade level at the edges to a height of substantially between 3 and 9 inches above grade at the longitudinal axial center;
- 5 m. the length of said berm, or a substantially contiguous series of said berms, is at least several multiples of said width;
- n. the combination of materials in steps d. and e. in combination is substantially between 20% and 60%, with a recommended target of substantially 33%, of the total mixture of step f.; and,
- 10 o. the mulch in step g. is a substantially continuous and stable layer substantially a minimum of two inches and substantially an average of four inches over said berm, and substantially fills and adjoins the said layer over said berm over said drainage trenches.

15 12. A method as in Claim 11 comprising, in addition:

- p. a soaker hose running along substantially the entire length of said berm or berms, placed at a depth of less than two inches below the apex of said berm;
- q. slow-release fertilizer and pre-emergent herbicide are added to the mixture of step f; and,
- 20 r. and acidic and/or alkaline additive is optionally added to the mixture of step f as appropriate.

25 13. A method as in Claim 2, wherein said multiplicity of plants, comprises a climatologically appropriate selection chosen to produce a year-round, or nearly year-round, decorative display.

14. A method as in Claim 13, wherein said multiplicity of plants, producing a year-round, or nearly year-round, decorative display, comprises a choice of plants with a display schedule substantially equivalent to, in the Southeastern United States, of:

- 30 i. Narcissus;

- ii. Forsythia;
- iii. Rhododendron;
- iv. Iris;
- v. Rose;
- 5 vi. Hydrangea;
- vii. Lagerstroemia;
- viii. Phlox;
- ix. Canna;
- x. Hemerocallis;
- 10 xi. Chrysanthemum; and,
- xii. Camellia.

15. A method as in Claim 14, wherein said multiplicity of plants comprises:

- i. Narcissus;
- 15 ii. Forsythia;
- iii. Rhododendron;
- iv. Iris;
- v. Rose;
- vi. Hydrangea;
- 20 vii. Lagerstroemia;
- viii. Phlox;
- ix. Canna;
- x. Hemerocallis;
- xi. Chrysanthemum; and,
- 25 xii. Camellia.

16. A method as in Claim 12, wherein said multiplicity of plants, comprises a climatologically appropriate selection chosen to produce a year-round, or nearly year-round, decorative display.

17. A method as in Claim 16, wherein said multiplicity of plants, producing a year-round, or nearly year-round, decorative display, comprises a choice of plants with a display schedule substantially equivalent to, in the Southeastern United States, of:

- i. Narcissus;
- ii. Forsythia;
- iii. Rhododendron;
- iv. Iris;
- v. Rose;
- vi. Hydrangea;
- vii. Lagerstroemia;
- viii. Phlox;
- ix. Canna;
- x. Hemerocallis;
- xi. Chrysanthemum; and,
- xii. Camellia.

18. A method as in Claim 17, wherein said multiplicity of plants comprises:

- i. Narcissus;
- ii. Forsythia;
- iii. Rhododendron;
- iv. Iris;
- v. Rose;
- vi. Hydrangea;
- vii. Lagerstroemia;
- viii. Phlox;
- ix. Canna;
- x. Hemerocallis;
- xi. Chrysanthemum; and,
- xii. Camellia.

19. A system for landscaping comprising a climatologically appropriate selection of a multiplicity of plants, chosen to produce a year-round, or nearly year-round, decorative display.

5 20. A system as in Claim 19, wherein said multiplicity of plants, producing a year-round, or nearly year-round, decorative display, comprises a choice of plants with a display schedule substantially equivalent to, in the Southeastern United States, of:

- i. Narcissus;
- ii. Forsythia;
- 10 iii. Rhododendron;
- iv. Iris;
- v. Rose;
- vi. Hydrangea;
- vii. Lagerstroemia;
- 15 viii. Phlox;
- ix. Canna;
- x. Hemerocallis;
- xi. Chrysanthemum; and,
- xii. Camellia.

20 21. A method as in Claim 20, wherein said multiplicity of plants comprises:

- i. Narcissus;
- ii. Forsythia;
- iii. Rhododendron;
- 25 iv. Iris;
- v. Rose;
- vi. Hydrangea;
- vii. Lagerstroemia;
- viii. Phlox;
- 30 ix. Canna;

- x. Hemerocallis;
- xi. Chrysanthemum; and,
- xii. Camellia.

- 5 22. A system for providing a low-maintenance landscape comprising:
- a. a berm, or series of berms, running for a length that is relatively longer than its width, substantially four feet in width, tilled to a depth of substantially six inches below grade, and sloping from substantially grade level at the lengthwise edges to a maximum height of between 3 and 9 inches above grade along the lengthwise axial center;
 - 10 b. a drainage trench at each lengthwise side substantially six inches in width and sloping down to a depth of substantially six inches;
 - c. the composition of the material of said berm comprising:
 - i. the tilled dirt of said berm;
 - 15 ii. the dirt excavated from said drainage trenches;
 - iii. a combination of a moisture retention material substantially functionally equivalent to compost and a drainage promoting material substantially functionally equivalent to ash, said proportion between the two dependent upon how much sand (a drainage promotion material) is already present in said dirt, and said combination comprising an amount
 - 20 substantially between 20% and 60%, with a recommended target of substantially 33%, of the amount of tilled and excavated dirt;
 - iv. slow-release fertilizer;
 - v. pre-emergent herbicide;
 - 25 vi. optional alkaline material substantially functionally equivalent to lime, as needed, to adjust for pH of the dirt or soil generally, or for at least one specific area to accommodate a particular plant; and,
 - vii. optional acidic material substantially functionally equivalent to sulphur, as needed, to adjust for pH of the dirt or soil generally, or for at least
 - 30 one specific area to accommodate a particular plant;

- d. a layer of a mulching material substantially functionally equivalent to wood chips, wherein said layer is substantially continuous and stable, to a minimum depth of substantially two inches over the apex of said berm, with a recommended average depth of substantially four inches covering said berm, and fully filling in and rising above grade over and beyond said trenches as needed to smoothly adjoin the layer covering said berm; and,
- e. at least one soaker hose running along substantially the entire length of said berm, or berms, placed at a depth of less than two inches below the apex, prior to the addition of said mulch layer, of said berm.

23. The system of Claim 22 employing, in addition, landscaping comprising a climatologically appropriate selection of a multiplicity of plants, chosen to produce a year-round, or nearly year-round, decorative display.

24. A system as in Claim 23, wherein said multiplicity of plants, producing a year-round, or nearly year-round, decorative display, comprises a choice of plants with a display schedule substantially equivalent to, in the Southeastern United States, of:

- i. Narcissus;
- ii. Forsythia;
- iii. Rhododendron;
- iv. Iris;
- v. Rose;
- vi. Hydrangea;
- vii. Lagerstroemia;
- viii. Phlox;
- ix. Canna;
- x. Hemerocallis;
- xi. Chrysanthemum; and,
- xii. Camellia.

25. A method as in Claim 24, wherein said multiplicity of plants comprises:

- i. Narcissus;
- ii. Forsythia;
- iii. Rhododendron;
- iv. Iris;
- v. Rose;
- vi. Hydrangea;
- vii. Lagerstroemia;
- viii. Phlox;
- ix. Canna;
- x. Hemerocallis;
- xi. Chrysanthemum; and,
- xii. Camellia.

26. The system of Claim 22, deployed along a highway or other public thoroughfare.

27. The system of Claim 23, deployed along a highway or other public thoroughfare.

28. The system of Claim 24, deployed along a highway or other public thoroughfare.

29. The system of Claim 25, deployed along a highway or other public thoroughfare.